



# Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project and Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project

#### **About the Project**

The **Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project** plans, designs, and constructs improvements along approximately nine miles of Coyote Creek, between Montague Expressway and Tully Road in San José. The project's primary goal is to reduce the risk of a flood event equivalent to the one experienced in February of 2017.

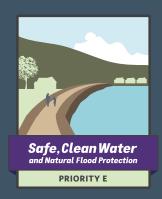
The Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project is comprised of two projects, the Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures (CCFMMP) and the Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project (CCFPP). Both projects are needed to provide flood protection to the 2017 level of flooding.

Other project objectives include:

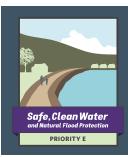
- Enhancements to creek's habitat and health
- Improvements to water quality and bay ecosystems
- Creation of a self-sufficient natural system to reduce the need for maintenance
- Collaboration with City of San José to align public recreation and access

#### **YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK**





**PRIORITY E** Provide flood protection to homes, businesses, schools, streets and highways



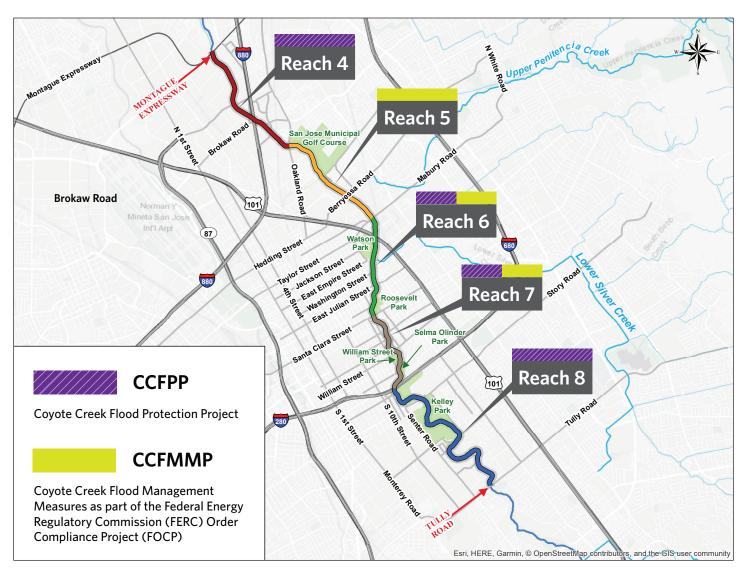
### PROJECT E1: Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project

Valley Water

Safe, Clean Water

YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

**PRIORITY E** Provide flood protection to homes, businesses, schools, streets and highways



## Public Input, Environmental and Regulatory Agency Review

As part of the preferred alternatives, both projects have various flood reduction elements proposed in different reaches along the nine miles of the Coyote Creek project. Reaches are sections of the creek used to identify where the work will occur. The planning phase was completed in mid-2020, and the projects are now going through a design phase with staff and design consultants gathering and evaluating critical data from various sections along Coyote Creek. To further refine elements of the preferred project alternatives, public meetings will continue to be held to obtain public input

at key project milestones through the start of construction. Environmental review, state and federal regulatory agency permitting will follow the completion of the design phase for each project.

The project elements include berms, levees, floodwalls, purchasing or raising of homes, and passive barriers. This project is being designed to require little to no stream-channel changes, leaving the stream habitat undisturbed. The design simplifies the regulatory compliance requirements for this project as the alternatives being considered are all outside the creek channel, which also aids in expediting the project schedule.



### Flood Protection Urgency and Anderson Dam Tunnel Project Relationship

Coyote Creek starts upstream of Anderson Reservoir and continues at the base of Anderson Dam. Currently, to prevent the dam from slumping in a large earthquake, the dam is being retrofitted under the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project. The seismic retrofit of Anderson Dam will help us protect our regional water supply, ensure public safety, and provide environmental benefits. Before the retrofit of Anderson Dam can begin, the Anderson Dam Tunnel Project needs to be completed. The tunnel project will build a new 24-foot diameter tunnel that allows Valley Water to maintain water levels in Santa Clara County's largest reservoir. This work is anticipated to be completed in mid-2024.

To reduce the risk of flooding downstream of Anderson Dam from the water flows generated in Coyote Creek by the tunnel project, approximately 40% of the flood risk mitigation measures from the Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project (CCFPP) had to be expedited. Reaches 5 and sections of 6 and 7 are part of the Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project (CCFMMP), with construction anticipated to start fall 2022 and be completed at the end of 2023.

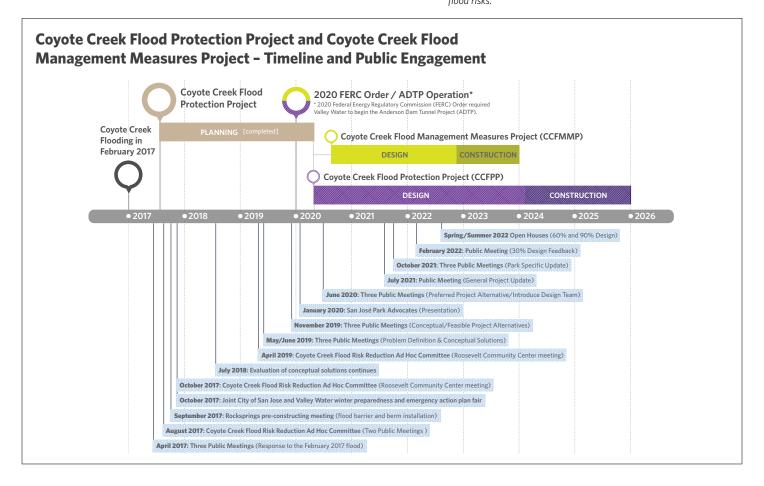
The remaining 60% of the original Coyote Creek project will be completed in its original schedule and coincide with the completion of the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project's diversion tunnel. Reaches 4, 8, and parts of 6 and 7 are in the CCFPP, with construction anticipated to start early 2024 and conclude at the end of 2025.



Vinyl sheet pile wall installed next to Rocksprings Park. Under the preferred alternatives for Reach 8, the sheet pile will be extended and raised.



A type of flood barrier known as a berm was installed behind the Nordale and Rocksprings neighborhoods to help reduce future





### Flood Risk Reduction Improvements

Since 2017, Valley Water has implemented several short-term interim projects to help reduce the risk of flooding along Covote Creek. These include the installation of an interim floodwall and embankment along the creek in the Rocksprings community. Other interim projects include repairing a 150-foot levee adjacent to the South Bay Mobile Home Park, installing flood gauges on bridges that provide realtime visual information on water levels, and





(Top) A barrier installed in the installed in the embedded condition.
(Bottom) A passive barrier in the process of opening.

removing invasive vegetation from Valley Water and City of San José properties in parts of the creek that experienced the most flooding. The proposed project alternatives will further enhance these existing improvements.

#### **Funding**

The Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project was originally funded by the countywide Clean, Safe Creeks and Natural Flood Protection Plan (Safe, Clean Water Program) parcel tax passed by voters in November 2000. Then, in November of 2012 and 2020, voters reaffirmed their commitment to providing flood protection to homes, schools, businesses and highways by renewing the Safe, Clean Water Program. In December 2019, the Valley Water Board of Directors voted to allocate local funding to construct the preferred project. The tunnel project funds the Coyote Creek Flood Management

Measures Project which will help reduce the risk of flooding while work on the tunnel project is happening. Valley Water continues to explore state and federal funding sources and partnership opportunities.

## Coyote Creek Watershed and Ownership

The Coyote Creek Watershed consists of a 322 square mile area with six major tributary creeks and is the largest watershed in the County of Santa Clara. It extends from the urbanized valley floor upward to the vast natural areas of the Diablo Mountain Range. Coyote Creek, its main waterway, is the longest creek in the county. The project is located in the central section of the Coyote Watershed in the mid-section of Coyote Creek.

The mid-reach is currently owned by the City of San José and private landowners, with only a fraction owned by Valley Water. While the city also owns the upper reach between Tully Road and Anderson Dam, the county and some private landowners have property rights as well. Property owners whose land extends into the creek are responsible for maintaining the creek sections on their property. Valley Water owns a small section of Coyote Creek, most of which is north of Interstate-880. Valley Water is coordinating with these property owners to construct the Coyote Creek flood protection projects.

A full list of projects in the **Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program** can be found at *valleywater.org/safecleanwater*.

#### Learn more

For information and updates on Project E1: Coyote Creek Flood Protection Project and Coyote Creek Flood Management Measures Project, email JVillarreal@valleywater.org or visit www.valleywater.org/project-updates/creek-river-projects/E1-coyote-creek-flood-protection.

